

Rehabilitations of the Year

Region I

John Bustamante III



John was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation in May of 2009. John suffered a significant brain injury in a motor vehicle accident at 5 months old. His work experience at the time of application was working on the TESH janitorial crew for 7 years, with some prior assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation. Following eligibility determination and work evaluation activities, John met the criteria to be served using the Community Supported Employment Program. During this time efforts between organizations were in place

between IDVR, TESH, and Kootenai Health to develop employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. A pilot program inspired by Project Search began in May of 2010. John began an on-site evaluation in the Patient Equipment Transportation Department. John was trained by a qualified job coach to perform the essential duties. After 6 weeks of extensive training, John was hired to be a part of the team in July 2010.

John recently celebrated his one year anniversary at Kootenai Health as a full time employee with benefits. His vocational success is allowing other individuals with disabilities the opportunity to seek employment with one of the largest employers in Kootenai County.

Region II

Jeanette Montague

In 2005, Jeanette Montague was referred to IDVR by a friend of the family. She was receiving SSDI as she was diagnosed with MS and mild CP. Jeanette had a limited work history driving a cab in Spokane and she was concerned regarding her limitations due to her disability and how they might affect her ability to meet the expectations of an employer.

When meeting with the counselor at IDVR, she set up a plan to go back to school to achieve self-support. This plan would help with some of the tuition, a computer, internet services, a vehicle, insurance, and maintenance.

Jeanette got in to Lewis and Clark University and she excelled from there taking her schooling very seriously, even with ongoing medical issues. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Information Systems in two years.

Jeanette located employment with Dell Computers as a client field service technician. Dell Computers quickly became impressed with Jeanette's knowledge, dedication, and competence and hired her for a full time position with benefits.

In quoting Jeanette, "IDVR changed my whole life, I love Voc Rehab! I would not be where I am today if it were not for Max and the whole rehab crew. They are the best!"



Region III

Omar Orosko



Omar Orosko was originally referred to VR by Mrs. Lutes, a special education teacher at Emmett High School during his junior year. Initially, the VR Counselor and VR Assistant worked with Omar to determine vocational strengths via career interest surveys. Upon application, Omar had a limited employment history with some degree of transferable skills from a summer job at the local library as a clerical worker.

Upon graduation from high school, Omar was referred to Community Partnerships of Idaho (CPI) for immediate job site development. Omar addressed such employability skills as how to fill out an application, what to say to the employer during a job interview, how to dress for a successful interview, etc. While meeting at CPI, Omar applied, interviewed for and obtained a job as a Therapy Technician working at the CPI facility in Emmett. He was initially employed on a full-time basis, but then he decided to return to school to obtain a college degree in computer information systems, which he continues to work toward while retaining his employment.

Omar was recently awarded the CPI Technologist of the Month. "VR is an important program. I would recommend it for anyone. It has given life-enrichment and has helped me to have a positive attitude on life."

Region IV

Bonnie Heap

Bonnie was referred to VR by her step mother and Health and Welfare. While working with VR, Bonnie struggled to stay positive and stable enough to participate in services. Bonnie entered a service worker plan and received Job Coaching Services. She was hired at the Wal-Mart super store in Burley. Although initially it was difficult for Bonnie to take in all the information she needed to maintain employment she was able

to persevere. After only two months of employment, she was named employee of the month. Bonnie has been working for over a year and is now a full time employee with benefits of insurance and paid leave. Bonnie states that she has not been this happy in years. She is at a point in her life where she is able to live life at its fullest. VR is very proud of Bonnie's success.



Region V

Amy Jenkins Scarborough



I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease where your body attacks the nerves. When I am under extreme amounts of stress, I relapse and my body slowly becomes numb, not all at once, but slowly. Throughout school, I was assaulted with extreme stress and problems. I wanted to ensure my family had a stable income and decided to apply for services with IDVR.

I qualified for services with IDVR and they helped me pay for my books and helped me get student loans to make it through the years of school. I ended up going to College of Southern Idaho (CSI) and their nursing program. CSI was two hours away, so for several months, I carpooled to school with a friend of mine, getting up at three in the morning to drive to Twin Falls, and returning later that same day until I finished nursing school. A year after I finished nursing school, I was back in school to get my bachelor's degree.

Today, I work as an RN in the emergency room of a nearby hospital. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't gone to school. I want to thank Vocational Rehabilitation for their financial support these last few years. Thank you for being there on my ten year journey.

Region VI

Brandon Stroud

Brandon was referred to VR from his treatment team by the wood pile up project. When Brandon applied for VR services he was 26 years old. Brandon reported to VRC that he was very committed to recovery; he said he always wanted to do more with his life but his addictions became a barrier to fulfilling any of his hopes and dreams.

Brandon's vocational goal was to start a small business.

He was adamant that he had all the skills and motivation he needed for self-employment. Brandon wanted to start

a lawn care business. VRC gave Brandon an extensive list of tasks to be completed before a staff meeting could be held to consider the approval of a small business plan.

Brandon moved so fast in completing the tasks that VRC could barkeep up with him. Brandon's plan was approved in early June 2010. He continued to work full time as a cashier, and did lawn care and other services at night. Within the second month of self-employment, he had too many business contracts to be able to work and fulfill his lawn care commitments. His case was closed after three months but his business has grown steadily, in fact he has hired three VR clients to work for him this year. He contacts VRC frequently and never fails to express how much VR helped him. Brandon is an example of how VR support can help people rebuild their lives even when they have a long history of vocational barriers.



Region VII

Joshua Wells



Joshua Wells was referred to IDVR by his Social Security Disability attorney. He applied for IDVR services with reported disabilities of diabetes with neuropathy, depression, and diabetic retinopathy. VRC collaborated with the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Josh expressed from the time of application that even if awarded SSDI benefits, he still wanted to work. Josh had worked as a motorcycle mechanic technician. Once eligibility was established for both agencies, a group meeting was held to discuss vocational services. In June 2010, Josh informed VRC that he had been in contact with Boise Cycle about the possibility of returning to work.

Boise Cycle was willing to give him a try.

Even though Josh had worked for Boise Cycle before, VRC felt an on-the-job training strategy was appropriate and would provide Boise Cycle the opportunity to observe Josh's ability to utilize assistive technologies in the workplace while continuing to meet the demands of his employment.

Sue Davis, co-owner of Boise Cycle, sent IDVR the following email:

"Josh is such a good guy, hard worker, and consciences. We sure wish we could find a couple more of him or at least one! Your organization was such a life saver for Josh and without him we would not be what we are. Thank you."

Region VIII

Camille Schoenhutt

Camille had difficulty finding a job for nearly a year prior to applying for VR. After living a life time in a negative environment, Camille presented to VRC that she was doubtful and insecure of herself by stating; "I am 50 years old and I am a failure. I have accomplished nothing." Most of her life she had worked entry level jobs.

After many discussions with the VRC, Camille decided to go to school to be a CNA. Many times throughout the plan Camille told her VRC, "I am a failure and better off dead."

VRC saw her potential and asked her to focus on what she needed to do and give her all. She agreed to try her best and also agreed with VRC that if she were to fail she would "get up and try again," because not everybody succeeds on their first try. With the assistance of an employment specialist, Camille got a job working as a CNA. Camille was very excited about her new found independence and made a declaration to obtain her own positive environment. Camille has since moved into her own place and was able to create the kind of environment she wanted.



Region IX

Frank Jones



Frank Jones applied for Vocational Rehab Services in 2009. Frank was found eligible December 11, 2009. He identified problems with judgment, impulse control, and insight. He also identified a history of depression, anxiety, and guilt. Drugs and alcohol became excessive, reckless, and very destructive. Frank participated in individual counseling to address those issues and said it was beneficial.

Frank asked for assistance from VR for tools, start-up business cost, transportation, and vocational counseling and guidance. All

Frank had was his word of commitment and 25 years' experience in the roofing business. He believed in making the customer happy and being honest. He also was very passionate about helping the elderly in the community and giving them a special discounted rate for allowing him to work on their roof. Frank used his knowledge and experience working in the roofing industry. Frank always wanted to be able to provide employment to other people who experienced the same hardships he faced.